



MP for Napier

Minister of Police

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Minister for Small Business

Dear Stakeholder

## Exclusion of Octopus from sustainability measures introduced following the Kaikoura earthquake

I write to inform you of the decisions I have made to:

- revoke the former Fisheries (Conway River to Marfells Beach Shellfish and Seaweed Harvest Closure) Notice 2017 (Notice No. MPI 808); and
- issue an renewed (Conway River to Marfells Beach Shellfish and Seaweed Harvest Closure) Notice 2018 (Notice No. MPI 890) which adds octopus to the list of species excluded from the closure.

The replacement harvest closure will apply to the same species (all seaweed and shellfish, excluding rock lobster and scampi) and the same area long the Kaikoura/Cape Campbell coastline as the former closure, but will now include octopus in the list of species that may be taken. The updated closure (No. MPI 890) will come into effect on 24 August 2018, immediately replacing the former harvest closure (No. MPI 808) at that time.

Octopus is regularly taken as a bycatch in the local rock lobster fishing industry. However, landing of octopus has not been permitted since the introduction of the closure as it belongs to the phylum *Mollusca* which was covered by the original closure. Fisheries New Zealand analysis of catch data in the area indicates the abundance of octopus has not been significantly affected by the Kaikoura earthquake. Therefore, it is my view that the resumption of harvesting octopus does not pose a risk to the sustainability of the octopus population in the area.

In reaching my decision I have considered feedback received as part of Fisheries New Zealand's targeted consultation process, the relevant legislative provisions and my obligations under the Act, the Treaty of Waitangi, and the advice provided to me by Fisheries New Zealand. This advice included Fisheries New Zealand's analysis of submissions received during a targeted consultation process with tangata whenua and locally engaged stakeholders.

The details of the closure are contained in the attached revised notice of closure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash  
Minister of Fisheries